

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Worcester Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of First Worcester Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.3% (387) reside in the First Worcester Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (74) of First Worcester Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.2% of admissions from the First Worcester Representative District were male and 25.8% were female.
- Over 57.9% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 91.5% of admissions were white non-Latino, 0.8% were black non-Latino, 5.9% were Latino, 0.8% were Asians, and 1.0% were other racial categories.
- 61.5% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.4% were married, and 17.6% reported not to be married now.
- 21.2% of admissions had less than high school education, 56.6% completed high school, and 22.2% had more than high school education.
- 46.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 7.2% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.3% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the First Worcester Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
First Worcester Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	371	341	95	77	53	61	34
FY '96	269	239	65	43	32	38	22
FY '97	282	253	88	56	48	35	28
FY '98	399	352	120	91	53	83	55
FY '99	385	341	130	80	40	78	52
FY '00	323	261	105	72	51	98	69
FY '01	387	301	131	88	48	131	92

- Since dropping in FY 1996, residents of First Worcester Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1996 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use more than tripled, marijuana and cocaine use doubled, and, alcohol and crack use increased by 25% and 50%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Worcester Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	52.7%	28.9%	8.5%	2.6%	1.6%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana was higher within your District.